The targeted communities and the local authorities are closely involved in the process of planning and implementation of the Community Development Programmes to the exent possible and subject to meeting the NTPC Ltd.'s rules and procedures. The Village Development Advisory Committee (VDAC) comprising of representatives from the district administration, local authorities, Panchayat/Nagar Nigam, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), local community and NTPC Ltd. are formed for consultation while formulating annual plans.

The expenditure incurred by NTPC Ltd. on Community Development is Rs. 16 crore in 2005-06. In addition to this, the expenditure made by NTPC Ltd. during 2005-06 under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) works was Rs. 13.59 Crores including Rs. 6.02 Crores for area surrounding its stations.

(c) No, Sir.

New transmission projects

1432. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the concept of public-private partnership projects, the State-owned Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) has entered into joint ventures with five companies for implementing transmission projects at an estimated investment of Rs. 5000 crores;

(b) if so, whether after having entered into similar alliance with TATAs earlier, Power Grid will now be inking Memoranda of Understanding with State-owned ONGC as also private sector entities;

(c) if so, the total length of the transmission line route of the five projects; and

(d) by when final implementation of this plan is likely to be considered?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) had signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with promoters of five power projects to set up Joint Ventures for implementing dedicated Transmission Systems for

evacuation of power from their power projects. The details of the projects, including project-wise transmission line route length, are given in the Statement. (*See* below)

PGCIL had signed MoU with M/s North-East Power Transmission Company Pvt. Ltd. for implementation of dedicated transmission system associated with 740 MW Gas Based Project of ONGC in Tripura. However, ONGC later decided that this Transmission System would be owned by the generating company. Therefore, no joint venture with PGCIL for this Transmission System is now envisaged.

(d) The dedicated Transmission Systems would be implemented matching with the commissioning of the corresponding generation projects during the 11th and 12th Plan periods.

Statement

Details of transmission projects for which MoU has been signed by PGCIL for implementation under Joint Venture route

1. MoU signed with Torrent Power AEC Ltd. for dedicated transmission system associated with 1100 MW Gas Based Power Project near Surat. Further agreements have been signed in February 2007.

Estimated Cost — Rs. 325 Crore approx.

Tentative line length — about 250 Km.

2. MoU signed with Jaiprakash Hydro Power Ltd. for dedicated transmission system associated with 1000 MW Karcham Wangtoo Hydro Project in Himachal Pradesh. Further agreements have been signed in February 2007.

Estimated Cost — Rs. 790 Crore approx.

Tentative line length — about 230 Km.

3. MoU signed with Countrywide Transmission Ltd. for dedicated transmission system associated with Hydro Project in Sikkim.

4. MoU signed with ESSAR Power Ltd. for DTS associated with 1500 MW Gas Based Project at Hazira near Surat.

Estimated Cost — Rs. 330 Crore approx.

Tentative line length — about 170 Km.

5. MoU signed with North-East Power Transmission Company (Private) Ltd. for dedicated transmission system associated with 740 MW Gas Based Project in Tripura.

Estimated Cost — Rs. 1500 Crore approx.

Tentative line length — about 650 Km.

Allocation of funds for R&D

1433. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are investing very meager amount in the energy sector for Research and Development in the Coal based energy; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal to increase the allocation for R&D in coal based power generation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Major public sector undertakings like Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and NTPC Ltd. are investing in R&D in coal based energy. Central Power Research Institute (CPRI), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Power is also undertaking R&D in coal-based power.

BHEL (under the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises) has major portion of its operations in the coal based energy sector and is currently spending the largest amount on Research and Development as compared to any other similar Indian company operating in BHEL's sector of operations. The Research and Development expenditure of BHEL during the year 2005-06 was Rs. 151.70 crores and the expenditure for the year 2006-07 is expected to be around Rs. 160 crores. The targeted expenditure for the year 2007-08 is Rs. 180 crores.

NTPC has decided to set aside 0.5% of its net profit annually for Research and Development activities. It has also recently set up an Energy Technologies Centre which will work in both fundamental and applied research and would develop technologies through collaborative research with the best of the R&D and academic institutions in India. NTPC has